

HAMNET BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY 4 September 2005

HAMNET is the Official Emergency Communications network of the South African Radio League that provides emergency communication to local, regional and national authorities, when requested to do so.

Bulletin compiled and prepared by Francois ZS6BUU and today being read by Jan Schubart, ZS6ARV.

IN THE BULLETIN TODAY:-

BULLETINS AROUND THE COUNTRY TRAINING MODULES SEISMIC
HOT SPOTS JAMLINE

HAMNET BULLETINS AROUND THE COUNTRY

KZN Sunday morning at 07H00 on their local VHF repeaters with a relay on 7.070 and/or 3.650MHz. KZN also have a Wednesday evening call-up and meeting on their 2M repeater system with the introduction of an 80M relay on 3.650MHz for the benefit of inland operators.

The National Bulletin at 12H00 CAT on 7,070MHz in the 40M band with an occasional relay on 14:225MHz in the 20M for the benefit of coastal regions. This time may change in due course but due to poor propagation conditions, we are currently trying this time until further notice.

The Gauteng North bulletin will probably also change due to the appointment of a new Provincial Director. We await further instructions.

North West Province have a club bulletin on Mondays, which includes a Hamnet segment at 19H00 local on 3,750Mhz in the 80M band as well as their local repeater on 145.737.5Mhz.

Hamnet Western Cape Province meets on Wednesdays at 20H30 local on 145:700MHz, relayed on 3,674MHz.

The HAMNET Bulletin is sent to all those of whom I have an e-mail address and also sent out on packet by Rudi, ZS6DX.

Please note, this bulletin is available for download from the web site of the SARL under the heading "HAMNET". Please access this section of the website as it contains a host of relative information relating to HAMNET and is designed to assist members as far as possible with information.

TRAINING MODULES

During the INTECNET interview held on 7 August, I announced the appointment of a Training Coordinator to my committee for the development of training modules specific for HAMNET members.

Pierre Tromp, ZR1PDT (now ZS1HF), Keith Lowes ZS5WFD and Glenham Duffy ZS5GD will work together to compile these modules.

I chose these 3 gentlemen simply because of their expertise in their various fields and also because it covers the whole spectrum of activities we may encounter during a HAMNET call-out.

This is a spin-off from the recent visit to Finland and listening to the various delegates who attended the Conference. Although I have had this in the back of my mind for a long time, I felt that the time had now arrived to put these ideas into a workable plan.

I am in contact with the 3 coordinators almost on a daily basis and what we envisage is the establishment of 3 levels of training namely Basic, Intermediate and Advanced. These may not necessarily be the names we will follow but it will depend on your involvement and activities related to HAMNET.

Let me put your mind at rest regarding these modules. They will not be forced onto you to be completed within a specific time-slot, but it will all be done on a voluntary basis but as soon as possible! What I envisage is that each Provincial Director appoints a Training Coordinator in his Province to oversee the smooth running of the training program.

In the end, what we are looking at is a group of people in each Province, with a suitable Certificate of Competence plus possibly other areas of expertise, which will form a core group called a Rapid Response Unit or team.

We are also going to work much closer with the Off Road Rescue Units and the Mountain Club of South Africa so that the 3 organisations will combine, after an emergency, to be a competent group of people that SASAR or any NGO body who may call on us for assistance, can rely on.

These modules are not going to be difficult and will not take up hours of study. They will be simplified for ease of learning but will be designed to equip us more fully for an emergency.

I sincerely hope that there will be many volunteers for this program so you can have a Certificate of Competence hanging in your shack. We will also be showing the various Government and NGO's around the country that we are now more equipped than ever before to assist after any emergency.

SEISMIC HOT SPOTS

Earth tremors are rare in South Africa thank goodness for that!

However, there are certain hot-spots around the country, due mainly to mining activities in those areas which obviously upset the subterranean structures and sometimes cause tremors.

The most recent was the one in Stilfontein on the 9th of March this year which caused a lot of damage to buildings in the area.

Martin Harper, ZS6MSG brought a magazine to my attention which highlights the hot-spots around South Africa and I thought it may be a good idea to bring these to your attention.

You will be pleased to know that South Africa in general, is a very stable continent and characterised by moderate seismic activity. The so called “Ring of Fire” is far removed from Africa and affects mainly the Pacific rim and Far East Asia. Remember the tsunami?

The earliest recorded tremor in South Africa was mentioned as far back as 1620 in the southern Cape coast even before the arrival of Jan v Riebeeck. The strongest obviously was in the Tulbach area on the 29th of September 1969 which measured 6.3 on the Richter scale. There have been smaller ones measuring 5 and 5.9 since 1963.

The areas shown on a map in this magazine indicated a few areas which could be prone to seismic events. They are as follows;

The Western Cape region The Oudtshoorn area Northern Cape in the Agenys area The South Western part of the Free State Western Lesotho The whole area stretching from the Witwaters Rand to the Klerksdorp area And lastly, northern KZN bordering on Swaziland.

Whether it is due to mining activity or natural movement of rock, stresses build up over a period of time and when that stress is released, it can have catastrophic results. Sometimes those stresses are released due to man's interference in the natural rock structures due to mining activity.

The activity in Stilfontein was measured in relation to equating it to an explosion, equivalent to 1.8 millions tons of commercial explosives

However, rest assured that an event, greater than 3+ on the Richter scale, may only occur once every 55 years in South Africa, so the chances of another major event like the one in Stilfontein, could be many years away. But, Mother Nature being what she is, anything is possible, however, there will be the odd little tremor now and again to remind us that the solid earth we live on and take for granted, does have to stretch a muscle now and again!

JAMLINE

In an earlier bulletin some time back, I made mention of the telephone service one can dial on the cell phone network to report accidents, traffic lights not functioning and other road problems.

Jamline is the initiative of Rob Byrne who phoned me a while back to thank all the Hamnet people who made use of this number as Jamline found much of the information of great value, especially during the holiday season.

I am giving this number again 084 526 5463 or simply 084jamline. Other numbers when reporting road accidents that may be of value, and thanks to Ken ZS2OC for these numbers are; 0861 400 800 or 0800 005 619.

I had the opportunity to phone the 0861 400 800 number recently to report a major traffic snarl-up in KZN and they actually phoned back to thank us for supplying them with accurate information.

Please, when phoning information through, be accurate with locations, nearest corner or nearest farm road number or nearest intersection or interchange and also in what direction you are travelling. Accurate information is absolutely essential.

FINAL COMMENT

Congratulations to the following Hamnet members who have successfully upgraded from ZR to ZS. Malcolm Kriel ex ZR6MDK now ZS4SM, Pierre Tromp ex ZR1PDT now ZS1HF. and Chris Bothma ex ZR6MVK now ZS6LOG.

Points for discussion under next month's bulletin; 1. An Intecnet type monthly bulletin costing could be a factor but prices are coming down. 2. Training compulsory to ensure we all talk the same language. 3. Outreach to EMS's and getting their radio stations "back on the air", 4. Pulse pager to activate members when called-up. 5. Hamnet Gauteng South Indaba to be re-introduced.

That is all for today. Comments and suggestions to: zs6buu@uskonet.com

Another late item whilst going over the Bulletin again in my mind on the way back from Bloemfontein this afternoon!

From now on unfortunately due to the fact that HAMNET is now receiving financial aid and that the "Authorities" now depend on us to render assistance when they call on us, if an e-mail delivery comes back as "cannot deliver" "unknown address" or anything that renders a Bulletin undeliverable, indicates that you are no longer interested in rendering assistance to you community.

Your name will be scrapped from the Database and you will not only have to re-apply but you will have to pass the Training Modules before you will be regarded as an "active" HAMNET member.

I regret this move, but we are now a "committed" team and protocol gets preference!

Bulletin ends.